

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

March 5, 2003

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Water Management Plan:

Scott Boyd, COE, received one comment from the Fish Passage Center on the WMP. The next draft will include the March final forecast. Paul Wagner, NOAA, suggested that the WMP include a section on relevant research that, as a result of the research, may change operations or spill patterns. There was some discussion on whether this information is appropriate for the WMP document.

ACTION: Paul will provide TMT with a specific example of what types of research he means at the next TMT meeting. One example he provided is a proposal to increase the spill cap at Bonneville based on research that has recently been completed. There needs to be a discussion of this research at FPAC before the TMT discussion of the process for adopting the change. The group also discussed the timing of finalizing the document. Another draft WMP will be distributed in March, and the document will be finalized with the April final forecast.

Chum Emergence:

Ron Boyce reported that there was an increase in chum, 22 in all, seen at Ive's Island on Friday, Feb. 28. Ron also reported that there have been a lot of observed Chinook. It was noted that typically, chum emergence occurs in March and early April so it is still early in the season. He will keep the group updated as the season continues.

NOAA Parameters for Maximum Transport:

Paul Wagner reported that 85 kcfs is the threshold for no transport when flows are expected to meet or exceed voluntary spill. When there is an unusual water year, as in this year, there will be more discussion on the issue and actual runoff numbers will be considered. It was noted that this is a new mode of addressing the issue. The group agreed that this issue needs further discussion.

ACTION: The NMFS Science Center will present information from the latest transport study at the March 19 TMT meeting. There was a request that FPAC review the study results prior to the TMT meeting. Paul and Sharon Kiefer will coordinate on getting Idaho results as well.

McNary TDG Spill Test Proposal:

Due to lack of funding, the spill test at McNary is not being considered for this year. An update was given that the “hoists passed their tests” at McNary.

Lower Granite Surface Bypass Collector:

The removal of the surface bypass collector at Lower Granite is underway, with completion expected on Monday, March 10. So far, no spill has been required, and none is expected. TMT members expressed appreciation to the contractors for working around them!

Ive’s/Pierce Island Seining Field Trip:

Ron Boyce will coordinate a field trip for the week of March 20 for those interested in observing seining at Ive’s and Pierce Islands.

Current System Conditions:

Fish status: It is still early for the adult Spring Chinook run; so far, 12 have been observed at Bonneville. Ron Boyce reported high projections for this year’s adult Fall Chinook run – 622,600. The Columbia River Coho return is expected to be 817,000.

Reservoir operations/water supply: The RFC released an early bird forecast, projecting about 72-73% average water supply at the COE projects. A final forecast will be out on Monday. Dworshak is at elevation 1553’, Hungry Horse is drafting and at 3509’, and Grand Coulee is at 1284.5’.

Status of Columbia Generating Station:

The CGS will be out another week for repair of damaged bearings. The hope is for full power to return by March 16. Until then, TMT agreed to draft Dworshak at 4.3 kcfs from Thursday, March 6 through Wednesday, March 12, about 20 kaf to meet load. Then, depending on rainfall levels, Grand Coulee will be drafted ½ foot per day to meet load. This may impact April 10 refill at Grand Coulee (a larger miss than already expected) and movement of flows out of spring into winter.

ACTION: Per Oregon’s request, BPA will provide modeling data with effects on flows and elevations.

BPA will monitor the situation and attempt to mitigate for impacts that it causes. The group clarified that while there is not a recommendation from the group, there are no objections to the stated operation. Oregon expressed that there were strong efforts to get the water into Grand Coulee and many fish are expected this year, and that this operation will affect the Biological Opinion. There will be an update on this issue at the March 19 meeting.

Other:

The Lake Roosevelt Forum is still extending an invitation to the TMT to hold its meeting in Spokane on April 23. Cindy Henriksen will put a link of the Forum’s conference on the TMT website, as the program has changed since TMT last discussed it. The group did not confirm yet whether or not it will travel to Spokane.

Next Meeting:

Agenda Items:

- TMT process follow-up
 - Wednesday meeting AM or PM?
- WMP Update
- Bonneville Spill Study – Gary Fredericks
- Chum
- NOAA Science Center – Transport Study
- Idaho Fish and Game – Transport Study?
- CGS Update
- Spill Starting on Snake River